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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 17, 2006. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, 22, and 24-28 are pending in the application and were rejected. With this amendment, the independent claims, i.e., claims 1, 8, and 22, are amended. The remaining claims are unchanged, and no new claims are added.

A. IDS

Page three of the Office Action states the IDS filed on August 15, 2005, failed to comply with the Rules. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing this out and resubmitted the IDS on March 13, 2006.

B. 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action states on page 4 that "claims 2-3, 9-10, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph." The Applicants respectfully point out that claims 2, 9, and 23 were canceled in a previous amendment, and they believe this rejection is a clerical error. In support of this belief, paragraph 3.1 on page 2 of the Office Action states "in view of the current amendment to independent claims 1, 8, and 22, earlier rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, and 24-28 under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs are withdrawn." Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

C. The Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6-7, 8, 10, 13-14, 22, 24, and 27-28

Claims 1, 3, 6-7, 8, 10, 13-14, 22, 24, and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hicks in view of Bissonette. Applicants have amended the independent claims to include features not shown in either of the references, and also submit that the prior art does not suggest the combination of references. Applicants submit that the amended claims are patentably distinguishable from the combination of Hicks and Bissonette.

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1. The Rejection of Claims 1, 3, 6-7, 8, 10, and 13-14

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the limitation of "identifying a particular hyperlink based on the requested data wherein the hyperlink is related to Contract Manufacturing Organization data available from a source outside of the database." Applicants submit that these features are not shown or suggested in Hicks or the prior art.

Hicks teaches a system that collects information from various sellers offering discounts on their products, and then offers a customer a list of relevant sellers in response to a customer's query on a given product. This list does not include a means of obtaining additional information using the system where the additional information is not stored in the database of the collected information. More particularly, Hicks does not teach a system that includes a database that "further includes a plurality of hyperlinks to Information," and "wherein the hyperlink is related to Contract Manufacturing Organization data available from a source outside of the database" as specifically set forth in the claim.

Bissonette does not teach these features, either. Bissonette is cited to teach "checking budget constraints." It does not include, and it is not cited as including, the limitations of the amended claims set forth above. And because the amended features are not shown or suggested in the prior art, the limitations of claims 1 and 8 are not shown or suggested in any proposed combination of Hicks and Bissonette.

Applicants also submit that there is no suggestion in the prior art to combine the references. Bissonette teaches an approval process for a credit card transaction, which may include checking to see if the transaction "would cause a budget item to be exceeded" and if so then "the transaction can be flagged for internal resolution. The system can be configured to go ahead and authorize payment for the purchase or it can be held" (col. 5, lines 48-53). The Office Action states that Bissonette is "in the same field of endeavor" as Hicks and that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Bissonette with Hicks because "it would ensure that the purchase amount is within the allocated funding otherwise the transaction is flagged for internal resolution." No motivation is offered, however, of why the person skilled in the art would investigate the system Hicks for the manufacture of designed parts and then be motivated to look to the credit card system of Bissonette for the budget constraint issue.

In fact, no motivation exists. In contrast to the present application, the budget constraint of Bissonette is on the credit card company, not the user of the credit. The user

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could likely prefer unlimited credit, but the credit card company needs to protect itself. In the present application, the budget constraint is on the buyer. The entire focus of the budget constraint is on the opposite party in the transaction.

Claims 3 and 6-7 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 10 and 13-14 depend from independent claim 8. Based on the amendments to and arguments regarding the independent claims, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hicks in view of Bissonette be withdrawn.

2. The Rejection of Claims 22, 24, and 27-28

Independent claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of "querying the database using the request data to determine a subset of qualified Contract Manufacturing Organizations from the plurality of Contract Manufacturing Organization data structures" and "identifying a particular Contract Manufacturing Organization data structure based on said desired manufacturing service so as to identify to the user a particular Contract Manufacturing Organization from the subset of qualified Contract Manufacturing Organization capable of providing said desired manufacturing service." Applicants submit that these features are not shown or suggested in Hicks or the prior art.

The system of Hicks, in contrast, only includes gathering the data from the sellers and selecting relevant sellers based on a customer query. The system of Hicks does not include an intermediate step or means of qualifying the sellers and then running the query on the qualified sellers to determine a particular seller. In particular, Hicks does not teach or suggest both (1) "querying the database . . . to determine a subset of qualified Contract Manufacturing Organizations from the plurality of Contract Manufacturing Organization data structures," and (2) identifying "a particular Contract Manufacturing Organization from the subset of qualified Contract Manufacturing Organization capable of providing said desired manufacturing service," as set forth in the amended claims.

Bissonette does not teach these features, either. It does not include, and it is not cited as including, the limitations of the amended claims set forth above. And because the amended features are not shown or suggested in the prior art, the limitations of independent claim 22 is not shown or suggested in any proposed combination of Hicks and Bissonette.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that for reasons discussed above, the prior art lacks motivation to combine the references.

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Claims 24 and 27-28 depend from independent claim 22. Based on the amendments to and arguments regarding independent claim 22, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 22, 24, 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hicks in view of Bissonette be withdrawn.

D. The Rejection of Claims 4-5, 11-12, and 25-26.

Claims 4-5, 11-12, and 25-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hicks in view of Bissonette and further in view of Elance. Claims 4-5 depend from independent claim 1, claims 11-12 depend from independent claim 8, and claims 25-26 depend from independent claim 22.

A discussion of the Hicks and Bissonette references and combination is found above. Elance has been cited to teach the feature of using "hyperlinks for [the claimed] services." The system of Elance teaches the use of hyperlinks to access other information in the database, but it does not teach, and the prior art does not suggest, that "the hyperlink is related to Contract Manufacturing Organization data available from a source outside of the database" as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 8, and related to claims 4-5 and 11-12, respectively. Furthermore, there is nothing in Elance to teach or suggest the amended features querying a subset of qualified providers, as set forth specifically in claim 22 and, thus, claims 25-26. In addition, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that there is nothing in the prior art to suggest that the references be combined in the fashion proposed in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 4-5 11-12, and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hicks in view of Bissonette and further in view of Elance be withdrawn.

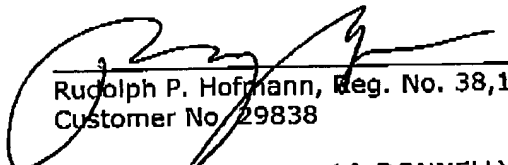
Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and favorable action and allowance of the application.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims and ask that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at 612-607-7340. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Attorney Docket No. 060021-358401).

Respectfully submitted,



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